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Colonel McCormack

December 13, 1945

Mr. Lay

Precedents for a State Department Executive Secretary of the National Intelligence Authority.

The attached list shows eight interdepartmental committees in the field of international relations, each of which has employees of the State Department both as Chairman and Secretary. Many of these committees have been formed with the authority or approval of the President. Others have been formed by invitation of the Secretary of State to other interested departments and agencies. This list, therefore, gives ample precedent for State Department chairmen and secretaries of interdepartmental committees along the lines proposed for the National Intelligence Authority. Recognition of this type of organization by the President and other Government officials is clearly indicated.

Particular attention is invited to the following committees on the attached list:

1. The Interdepartmental Committee on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation prepares complete Government-wide programs in its field, prepares the required Budget estimates and defends those estimates before both the Bureau of the Budget and Congress. The entire secretariat of this Committee is composed of State Department personnel.

2. The letter from the President establishing the Executive Committee on Economic Foreign Policy furnishes clear evidence that the President looks to the Department of State to take the leadership in interdepartmental committees dealing with foreign affairs.

It should also be noted that I have been unable to discover any precedent for an interdepartmental committee with a secretariat independent of any single department or agency of the Government. In the case of all other interdepartmental committees which I have noted the secretariat is furnished normally by the department or agency of primary interest, except for a few committees whose secretariat is furnished jointly by all participating agencies. {

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Examples of Interdepartmental Committees on Which the Department of State Furnishes the Chairmen and Secretaries

1. Interdepartmental Committee on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation.

Established 1938, pursuant to letter from the President to the Secretary of State, to coordinate activities of departments and agencies of the government, under the leadership of the Department of State, in undertaking cooperative projects in the Western Hemisphere. Legislation now pending to expand functions to a world-wide basis.

Chairman: William Benton
Executive Director: Raymond L. Zwemer

2. Liberated Areas Committee.

Established 1944 by Secretary of State to provide forum in which various government civilian agencies may formulate policies on all wartime economic problems arising in liberated areas.

Chairman: William L. Clayton
Executive Secretary: Vacant (State)

3. Executive Committee on Economic Foreign Policy.

Established 1944, under authority of letter from the President to the Secretary of State (copy attached), to examine problems and developments affecting economic foreign policy and to formulate recommendations in regard thereto for consideration of Secretary of State, and, in appropriate cases, of the President.

Chairman: William L. Clayton
Executive Secretary: Robert M. Carr (State)

4. Petroleum Facilities Coordinating Committee.

Established 1945, by letter from Secretary of State to other departments and agencies, to implement foreign policy objectives and recommendations set forth in Coordinating Committee Document "Policy with Respect to Fixed Installations Constructed Abroad by the United States Government", in so far as it relates to petroleum facilities; and to advise interested agencies with respect to declaring surplus and disposing of facilities.

Chairman: David A. Robertson (State)
Executive Secretary: Charles P. Schleicher (State)

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5. Interdepartmental Committee on Rubber.

Established 1945, by letter from Assistant Secretary of State to other departments and agencies, to discuss operating problems and related policy questions concerning procurement of natural rubber when questions involved are of interest to several departments and agencies.

Chairman: Donald D. Kennedy (State)
Secretary: Joseph N. DuBarry (State)

6. Committee on Trade Agreements.

Established 1934, by letter from Secretary of State to other departments and agencies, to serve as central agency of the interdepartmental trade agreements organization; to direct preparation of all necessary studies; to review data and recommendations of its numerous subcommittees; and to formulate final recommendations regarding proposed trade agreements which are submitted, through the Secretary of State, to the President.

Chairman: Winthrop G. Brown (State)
Secretary: Margaret H. Potter (State)

7. Interdepartmental Committee on Resumption of Communications with Liberated Areas.

Established 1945 to consider problems arising with respect to reopening communications with liberated countries.

Chairman: Francis Colt deWolf (State)
Secretary: Florence A. Trail (State)

8. Special Committee on Communications.

Established 1943, with written approval by the President, to consider future international traffic by cables and radio; the possible merger of international carriers in telecommunications; possible adherence of the U.S. to the International Telegraph Regulations; the revision of existing telecommunications conventions and radio regulations; and the preparation of peace and armistice terms as related to communications.

Chairman: William L. Clayton (State)
Secretary: Harvey B. Otterman (State)

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